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COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-6035

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH CONGRESS

September 20, 2001

SUSTAIN THE QUALITY OF OUR MILITARY FORCES

SUPPORT H.R. 2586, THE DOD AUTHORIZATION BILL

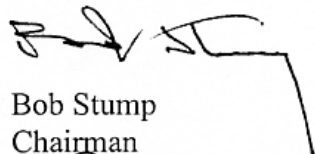
Dear Colleague:

The recruiting and retention challenges confronting the military threaten our ability to sustain the readiness and quality of our military forces. All the services have incurred damaging losses among pockets of highly qualified, experienced personnel and there is continuing evidence that military pay is inadequate to provide an attractive quality life to families.

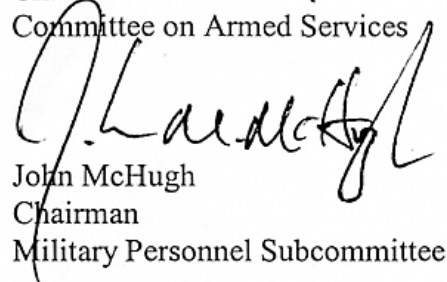
H.R. 2586, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 includes a wide range of policy and compensation initiatives that comprehensively address the concerns of our men and women in uniform by:

- Providing the largest military pay raise since 1982, including a 6 percent minimum to enlisted members and 5 percent to officers.
- Targeting raises of up to 10 percent to critical mid-grade and senior noncommissioned officers and mid-grade officers.
- Reducing out-of-pocket housing expenses from the current 15 percent to 11.3 percent in fiscal year 2002 and providing a plan to eliminate out-of-pocket expenses by fiscal year 2005.
- Authorizing \$282 million in new travel and transportation benefits over two years to reduce out-of-pocket costs for military families moving between duty stations.

These initiatives represent a bi-partisan effort to improve retention of highly qualified military personnel and their families. We urge you to vote "YES" on H.R. 2586.



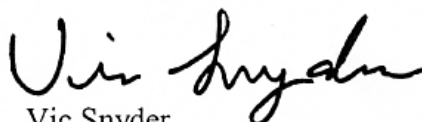
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 Chairman
 Committee on Armed Services



John McHugh
 Chairman
 Military Personnel Subcommittee



Ike Skelton
 Ranking Democrat
 Committee on Armed Services



Vic Snyder
 Ranking Democrat
 Military Personnel Subcommittee